

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

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BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1912.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

FIREMEN WANT AUTO.

ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE CHEMICAL WAGON PURCHASED.

Cannot Get Horses to Draw It—Mayor Condemns Criticism of an Untried Machine—Lively Talk on Fire Matters.

There was a large attendance of firemen at the Town Council meeting Monday night and when fire matters were taken up the following letter to the council, submitted by Samuel Westervelt of Phoenix Hose Company, was read by the clerk:

"To the Mayor and Town Council: GENTLEMEN—We, the undersigned, a regularly appointed committee representing Phoenix Hose Company, beg to call your attention to the unfortunate purchase of the new horse drawn chemical wagon for our company.

"Mr. Thomas Decker, who supplies horses for the fire apparatus in Central firehouse, has no horses heavy enough for this wagon; therefore we recommend that a suitable automobile chemical be obtained.

"The following will show why an automobile is more economical and more serviceable. A team of horses, together with harness and exercise wagon, will cost about \$1,200 and the building of a stable for the horses will cost \$2,500. The chemical wagon is billed for \$1,780, making a total expense of \$5,480. We are informed on good authority that an excellent automobile chemical can be secured for about \$4,500. Do not overlook the cost of keeping the team, which will be about \$60 per month, and many weeks go by when there are no fires.

"We earnestly recommend that in view of the foregoing and many other features that an automobile chemical be obtained for our company, which we assure you will be of great service to the town and prove beyond all calculations a most economical investment.

"Signed: Samuel Westervelt, Fred Roberts, Archie M. Heath, Augustus Hauser, W. B. Douglass.

Chairman Unangst of the fire committee said that he had decided upon making a recommendation that the council purchase a team of horses for the chemical wagon, but in view of the letter from the hose company he would hold off on the matter until consideration had been given to the company's request, which was one that he thought ought to be considered.

Mr. Albion spoke in favor of an auto power chemical wagon and he said he would not vote to purchase horses to draw the wagon now in the company's house.

The characterization by the firemen of the council's action in purchasing the present wagon as an "unfortunate purchase" was displeasing to Mayor Hauser, who expressed himself as disgusted with Phoenix Hose Company's action in condemning an untried machine. The mayor said that ever since he had assumed office improvement of the fire department in equipment and otherwise had been one of his uppermost aims, and he defied any member of the department to show where he had acted otherwise. In the mayor's opinion the attitude of Thomas H. Decker, the lively man, showed a deplorable lack of public spirit and enterprise.

Mr. Albion took exception to the mayor's allusion to Mr. Decker's lack of public spirit and claimed that the horse service that Mr. Decker had supplied to the fire department was the best furnished to any volunteer department in the State. He said he had made many personal observations of the turnouts of the firemen in response to an alarm and invariably the Central firehouse apparatus was speedily on the road to the scene of the fire.

Mr. Unangst indulged in some complimentary remarks about the work performed by the firemen, which brought forth applause from the firemen in the audience and which the mayor promptly checked, saying that this is no time for expression of appreciation. I do not believe that the purchase of an automobile would be wise at the present time, continued the mayor. It would necessitate employing two men permanently at a regular salary, not to mention the bills for repairs which we would receive. No doubt many of the firemen would "monkey" with the apparatus, and it is well-known that the first cost of an automobile is less than the cost of maintenance.

Fireman Joseph Schaup asked permission to make a statement and it was granted. Mr. Schaup asked if the mayor and councilmen were aware that there were times when Mr. Decker did not have horses in his stable and in case of an alarm at such a time the fire apparatus could not be got out.

The mayor asked Mr. Schaup why that if he knew of such a state of affairs he did not report it to the authorities.

Mr. Schaup replied that the fire officials knew of it.

Chief Engineer Higgins when called upon corroborated Mr. Schaup's statement and said that the fire committee was aware of the fact.

Mr. Murray said that the questions that had been raised involved matters could not be settled that evening, and his motion that the matter be left in the hands of the fire committee for further consideration was adopted.

Dr. C. J. Neff, Surgeon Chiropodist, treats all feet ailments. Office room No. 5 Trust Company building.—Adv.

Town Council.

The appropriation ordinance introduced by Chairman Murray of the finance committee at the meeting of the Town Council on January 23 passed second reading Monday night, and Mr. Murray, calling up the ordinance, said that he reserved the right to offer amendments to it if it was desirable to do so before its adoption. The appropriations named in the ordinance were as follows: Lighting, \$21,000; police, \$16,000; fire, \$9,500; streets and highways, \$22,000; poor, \$5,000; interest on debt, \$23,700; incidentals, \$12,500; sinking fund, \$9,300; schools, \$52,000; police pension fund, \$532; total, \$171,552.

Frederic K. Gahs of Park avenue appeared before the council with a complaint about the blocking of Jersey street by the contractors erecting the large apartment house on the southeast corner of Park avenue and Jersey street. Mr. Gahs said that he had complained to the chief of police and superintendent of roads about the obstructing of the street, and the contractor had been notified by both of those officials, but apparently gave no heed to the notifications.

Mr. Hummel said that Mr. Stimus had several times spoken to the contractor about blocking the street.

The mayor suggested an arrest and fine as a good way to make an impression on the party responsible for the obstruction.

An amendment to the fire ordinance was passed fixing the limit of membership at twenty-five in Essex Hook-and-Ladder Company and twenty-one in each of the five hose companies.

Councilman Albion asked that the committee on railroads and transportation endeavor to have the Lackawanna Railroad stop the 8:04 express train from Bloomfield at the Watessing station.

Fourteen arrests were made and \$25 in fines were collected by the police during January.

The \$1,000 bond of W. R. Raab as assessor was approved. John Jaeger, a member of Essex Truck Company, was granted an exemption certificate.

A horse was ordered purchased for the water department not to exceed \$300 in cost.

Michael Lang's application for a place on the police force was referred to the police committee.

Two lights were ordered placed in the business centre of the town, in place of the four Tungsten lights.

Mr. Koehler reported a peculiar state of affairs in connection with the proposed payment for land belonging to W. P. Lewis, which has been condemned for the extension of Lackawanna place.

An old mortgage dated some fifty years ago has been unearthed. Apparently it has not been cancelled nor the principal or interest paid, and it is therefore held to remain as a potential lien upon the property. In order to protect the town's interest, a bond has been secured from the present owner.

Almost Unanimous.

At the school meeting held in Glen Ridge Monday night the citizens of the borough by a vote of 63 to 1 decided in favor of an issue of bonds to the amount of \$35,000 for the purpose of building a new grammar school in the north end of the borough at Bay and Sherman avenues. The action of the voters will be submitted to the State Board of Education for approval. Work on the new building will be started as soon as the preliminaries connected with realizing on the bonds are disposed of.

Free Public Lecture.

The next lecture in the free public course will be given Friday, February 16, in Centre School. In contrast to the previous lectures it will not be illustrated. Mr. Louis W. Armstrong, known to many of our people and remembered very pleasantly by his visits of other years, will be the lecturer for the evening. The subject, "Folk Song of Italy," will be demonstrated by Mr. Armstrong, who possesses a very pleasing baritone voice. The lecture will be an agreeable change from the usual illustrated talk.

Against Imhoff Tanks.

Assemblyman Beard of Glen Ridge introduced a bill in the Assembly Monday night which, if enacted, will prevent Montclair and East Orange from putting sewage disposal tanks in this town and Belleville except with the consent of the council and Board of Health of the municipalities affected. Mr. Beard offered the bill at the request of the officials of this town, Belleville and Nutley.

School Election.

The eighth grade of the Fairview Grammar School held a class meeting for the election of officers last week: President, Bryon O'Neill; vice-president, Erwin Bell; secretary, Donald Peck; treasurer, Alice Hays, were elected.

Burglar and Fire Proof Vaults. We have complete facilities for the storage of valuables. Safety Boxes at \$4.00 per annum and upwards. The Bloomfield National Bank.—Adv.

BURGLAR'S ILL LUCK.

Had Got Away with Several Hundred Dollars' Worth of Valuables from Town Attorney Koehler's House and a Newark Policeman's Interference Caused Him to Drop His Booty.

A burglar entered two residences in the Berkeley Heights section at an early hour Sunday morning. The houses broken into were those of George B. McGuire in Berkeley Heights park and of Town Attorney Charles F. Koehler, 285 Bloomfield avenue. At Mr. McGuire's home the thief got possession of two vests and a pair of trousers. These he took out of the house and rifled the pockets and then threw the garments away in the yard, where they were found by members of the family.

At Town Attorney Koehler's residence the thief made a large haul and got away with it, but subsequently lost it and Mr. Koehler had the marvellous good luck to recover his property. It was about 4 o'clock on Sunday morning that Mrs. Koehler was awakened by a noise on the first floor and she arose and went down stairs to investigate. She did not arouse Mr. Koehler. She was surprised to find pools of water on the floor and returned upstairs to get her shoes in order to go down again and make further investigation.

While she was putting on her shoes she heard some one go out of the house. Then she awoke Mr. Koehler, who hastily dressed, and when he and Mrs. Koehler got down stairs they saw at once what the trouble was. Melted snow on the floor, an open window, an open safe and scores of burned matches on the floor told the story. The thief had departed with Mr. Koehler's overcoat and a large quantity of silverware.

Mr. Koehler immediately called upon police headquarters and Sergeant Baylis quickly responded and after making a hurried investigation notified the Newark police department. Tracks in the snow around Mr. Koehler's premises showed the thief had approached the house by way of Berkeley Heights park and had left the premises in the direction of Bloomfield avenue.

About twenty minutes after the Newark police had been notified Desk Sergeant Purcell of the Second Precinct station house was on his way from his home, 170 Bloomfield avenue, to report for duty and was coming through Summer avenue when he observed a man coming in the opposite direction with a bag on his back. When Purcell neared the stranger the latter walked into an alleyway and stood there. Purcell followed and the man dropped the bag and ran.

Before Purcell reached the yard the stranger had jumped the fence into the next yard. Purcell also leaped the fence and they jumped three or four more fences before the sergeant found that he was no match for the fugitive in that line and gave up the chase. Purcell went back after the bag. It contained forty-five pieces of silverware. He took them to the station and Mr. Koehler was notified. He called later and claimed the goods. Mr. Koehler said that an overcoat was also stolen. Purcell and Patrolman Goodwin found the coat later in one of the yards on the block where the chase took place.

Opposed to Pig Farm.

While still fighting against the proposed establishment of an Imhoff sewage disposal plant within its boundaries, the town of Belleville has another nuisance to combat in a proposed "pig farm" which Mayor Denison declared at a recent meeting of the Common Council, would be as bad if not worse than the sewage tanks. Councilman George J. Byron said he understood that a temporary permit had already been granted two Bloomfield men to keep a pig farm in the Soho section, and wanted to know what authority Health Inspector W. Brand Smith had to grant such a permit.

Councilman John DeGraw said the town's sanitary code provided that a permit must be obtained by all persons keeping swine, and Mayor Denison remarked that many persons were keeping pigs without complying with such formality.

State Aid Farming.

A. L. E. Strassburger has been elected treasurer of the E. B. Voorhees Agricultural Society of the State Agricultural College, and at a recent meeting of the society a resolution was adopted to the effect that the society through its legislative committee petition the Legislature to appropriate the sum of \$150,000 for building and equipment and \$50,000 per year for maintenance of the short courses; to appropriate liberally for the aid of the Short Experiment Station and Agricultural College; and that the sum of \$1,000 per annum be provided for the use of the E. B. Voorhees Agricultural Society for demonstrations in farming and publication of the results.

Safe Deposit Boxes. You are invited to call and inspect our Safe Boxes in our Burglar and Fire Proof Vaults. Boxes to rent at \$4.00 per annum. The Bloomfield National Bank.—Adv.

CHURCH NEWS.

Rev. J. Wm. Ryder May Leave Watessing Methodist Church—Men's Club Banquet—General Church Notes.

The Rev. J. Wm. Ryder, pastor of the Watessing Methodist Church, made the following announcement to his congregation at the morning service on Sunday, February 4:

"In about two months time I will complete five years in the pastorate of this church. I have never served a church longer than five years and you have never kept a pastor longer than five years. In fact only one man besides myself has remained that long in the pastorate of your church.

"While there is no disciplinary time limit in our Methodism to-day and pastoral relations may continue indefinitely, or as long as all parties to the contract are agreed, yet there are churches and pastors who hold to a time limit. Your church is one of them.

"In deference to this policy, I shall cause my pastoral relations among you to be terminated at the approaching session of our Annual Conference. Our district superintendent understands this and will act accordingly. Formal action will be taken by the Quarterly Conference at its next meeting on February 27.

"I will not detain you with any review of progress during these years of toil together, however interesting and profitable such a resume might be. For all that has been achieved, for every battle fought and victory won, we gladly give God the praise, who hath made us to be collaborators together with Himself. Permit me, however, to express our appreciation of all the evidences of your fidelity and love to us, and to make mention of your devotion and hearty response to the many calls of a tireless ministry. Let us labor on together after this fashion until the end, until by the decree of the authorities of the church our relations are dissolved.

An informal reception took place in the parlors of the Glen Ridge Congregational Church Monday night. The affair was in charge of the following committee: Mrs. W. E. Smith, Mrs. George Zaborskie, Mrs. J. A. Zaborskie, Mrs. W. Van Zandt Wilson, Mrs. E. M. Tallot, Mrs. S. K. Watts and Miss Zaborskie. Mrs. C. H. Thomas gave several voca selections. Mrs. A. L. Burns and A. B. Luce were winners in a guessing contest.

The evening of February 12 the Men's League of the church will have its annual dinner. The speakers will be Rev. W. B. D. Gray, superintendent of home missions in Wyoming, who will tell of the work being done by the Men's League representative, Rev. M. W. Baker, in Lander, that State.

Frank M. Hinkle has resigned as president of the board of ushers of the First Presbyterian Church, after fifteen years' service.

The Men's League of Westminster Presbyterian Church will meet Thursday night.

The members of Bromley Chapter, Epworth League of the Park Methodist Church, will hold a measuring party Monday night.

W. S. MacGregor of New York will give another free Bible lecture at 36 Broad street, the Essex County Building and Loan Hall, to-morrow at 8 p. m., under the auspices of the Bloomfield Branch of the International Bible Students'. A Bible study will also be held at 7:30 p. m. at 198 Newark avenue. All welcome.

The music at the services in Christ Episcopal Church to-morrow will be as follows: 11 o'clock morning service, Te Deum in B Minor, Buck; offertory anthem, alto solo from "The Prodigal Son," Sullivan; 4:30 afternoon service, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in D, Clare; offertory anthem, "Who are these that are arrayed in white robes?" Stainer.

Dickens' Lecture.

The Men's League of the Westminster Presbyterian Church gave an illustrated lecture on the centenary of the birth of Charles Dickens by the Rev. Dr. W. T. Wilcox, pastor of the church, accompanied by a three-reel film of motion pictures, entitled "A Tale of Two Cities," on Tuesday evening to an assembly of 500. On February 20 a new and novel set of films of more high grade motion pictures will be exhibited, entitled "Washington Relics," "Equestrian Feats by Cosacks," "The Prince and the Pauper" and a comedy pantomime for the younger folks. These exhibitions have been so successful in the past and draw such large crowds it is necessary to come early to secure good seats.

Announcement.

W. C. Appleton and E. R. S. Reeder announce that they have secured the services of Chas. S. Shepard, former manager of the Standard Drug Company, Hudson Terminal Building, New York city, as manager of their Glen Ridge Pharmacy. Previous to Mr. Shepard's New York position he was with D. H. Baldwin, Montclair Pharmacy, for over eight years, and for four years at Loeser's Pharmacy, Montclair.

The Fredericks Claim.

The law committee of the Town Council on Monday night submitted the opinion of Town Attorney Charles F. Koehler in the matter of the claim of Mrs. Fredericks for damages to the amount of \$92.50 on account of alleged official negligence in not seeing to it that the town's fire alarm system was kept in proper working order. Mr. Koehler's opinion was as follows:

"Mrs. Fredericks, one of the tenants of the building adjoining the Raab Hotel, recently destroyed by fire, has presented a claim against the town for value of merchandise owned by her which was destroyed or injured by fire or water. Her contention is that by reason of defects in the fire alarm system a delay of twenty-five minutes occurred in sending in the alarm, and that had such delay not occurred the fire would not have attained the magnitude which it did and that her property would not have been destroyed. In other words, she bases her claim as to the liability of the town on the ground of the town's negligence in permitting the fire alarm system to be out of repair."

"This question, Mr. Koehler said, was considered by the Court of Errors and Appeals in the very recent case of Paterson vs. the Erie Railroad Company, and in that case Chief Justice Gummer, speaking for the court, said: "Municipal corporations are engaged in the performance of public services in which they have no particular interest, and from which they derive no special benefit, in this corporate capacity. The persons employed by them in the rendering of such service act as public servants, charged with a public duty. They are mere agencies or instrumentalities by which such duties are performed, and the doctrine of 'respondeat superior' does not apply to such employment."

Another case cited by Mr. Koehler was that of Condit vs. Jersey City, in which the Court of Errors held that a municipality was not liable for an injury occasioned by the act of a driver of an ash-cart, employed by that municipality to remove ashes and refuse from boxes and barrels placed on the sidewalk, in carelessly making a dump from his cart.

In the case of Wild vs. Paterson the Supreme court, Mr. Koehler said, held that a municipality was not responsible to a member of its fire department who was run over and injured while assisting to haul an engine to a fire, the accident having occurred because the persons in charge of the engine had carelessly permitted its brakes to get out of order. "The concrete principle established by these decisions," Mr. Koehler said, "is that negligence in the performance of public duties by municipal agents or instrumentalities entrusted therewith is not chargeable against the municipality. Applying this principle to the claims of Mrs. Fredericks it is apparent," said Mr. Koehler, "that there is no liability on the part of the town for injuries arising from the alleged neglect of its agents, charged with the duty of maintaining its fire alarm system, and that the town is under no legal liability to Mrs. Fredericks for the loss sustained by her."

Town Clerk Davis was instructed to notify Mrs. Fredericks that her claim had been duly considered by the council, and that the town was not legally responsible for her loss.

Good Minstrel Show.

The minstrel show given Thursday evening by the Men's League of the First Presbyterian Church was thoroughly enjoyed by a large audience that filled the Sunday-school room. A pleasing programme was presented. The singing was excellent and the jokes, particularly those of local application, afforded much merriment. A farce "Nigger Night School," occasioned great laughter. Old time First Church families were represented in the names of the scholars in Professor Theodoros Jackson's school. Those in the circle were: George Ewan, interactor; William Calkill, L. H. Vanderhoof, E. M. Bath, C. A. Johnston, Clarence Tower, Edward Crane, D. D. Schouler, Charles M. Davis, "Will" Tyle, Edmund Reeder Whitmore and "Billy" Johnson, bones; Walter Underwood and J. Herbert Noble, tambos. The Thomas Orchestra furnished instrumental music. The quartette singing was highly appreciated and repeatedly encored. The programme concluded with a cake walk led by Messrs. Underwood and Noble.

Abandoned Baby.

A four-months-old baby girl was left last Saturday night at the entrance to the double flat house owned by Morris Snyder at Washington and Thomas streets. The cries of the infant attracted the attention of Leopold Bloch, who was on his way home. He notified the police and Officer Shorter, with Dr. Moore, took care of the little one. Later the physician took it to the Foundling Asylum in Montclair. So far the police have obtained no clue to the owner.

Memorial Service to Dr. Paull.

A memorial service for the late Rev. George A. Paull, D. D., will be held in the First Presbyterian Church, Upper Montclair, to-morrow at 4 o'clock. Rev. Orville Reed, D. D., of Montclair will preside, and addresses will be made by Dr. McMillan of New York, Dr. Palmer and Mr. Morgan of Montclair and Mr. Munro of Upper Montclair.

CENTENNIAL PLANS.

GENERAL COMMITTEE HELD AN IMPORTANT MEETING LAST NIGHT.

Finance Committee Reports on Monument Project—Public Schools Have Elaborate Plans Under Consideration—Other Committees Report.

The general committee having in charge the arrangements for the centennial celebration held a meeting last night in the Town Council rooms. The various sub-committees made reports relative to the various features of the proposed celebration. Matthew McCroddan, chairman of the finance committee, reported that at a meeting of that committee the monument proposition had been a chief topic of discussion. The monument committee, as previously reported, has pledged to the amount of \$2,500 towards the erection of a soldiers and sailors' monument, estimated to cost about \$5,000. The pledged subscriptions were, however, conditional upon the balance being raised by the centennial celebration committee. The monument committee will not place the order for the monument until the full amount of money required is in sight.

The finance committee does not want to mix the monument fund with the general celebration fund, and it is proposed first to find out whether or not the general sentiment of the public is in favor of the placing of a monument of the kind proposed, and if the majority sentiment favors the monument a separate subscription fund will be started towards raising money for it and the finance committee has a plan for putting that scheme in operation.

There is a large auxiliary of women who are enthusiastically interested in the fact that the public school children are to take part in the celebration and if suggested plans can be put in operation the school children's exercises will be among the most pleasing and spectacular features of the celebration. The women, however, find themselves confronted with the financial question and will have to square their plans with the estimated financial assistance that they can rely upon. There will be a meeting next week of the woman's association at which the school plans will be further discussed.

Chairman Frederick M. Davis, who is to try and get Governor Wilson here at one of the centennial functions, has not yet succeeded in making an appointment with the Governor.

The bill before the Legislature authorizing towns to appropriate \$3,000 towards defraying the cost of centennial celebrations has passed the Senate.

License Transfer Refused.

The members of the Town Council without a dissenting vote Monday night refused the application of Sebastian Rose for a permit to transfer his liquor selling license from 426 Bloomfield avenue to 416 on the same street. When the transfer application was taken up for consideration the clerk read two protests in writing against it. One was from the Men's Brotherhood of the Watessing Methodist Church and the other from citizens of the Third ward in general. The protest of the brotherhood was as follows:

"The Men's Brotherhood of the Watessing Methodist Episcopal Church, and other members of that church, residents and taxpayers in the Third ward, do protest against the transfer of any license for the sale of intoxicating liquors from any other ward or section of the town into the Third ward.

"We have long been held up to scorn as the 'saloon ward,' and with good reason, but we are determined if possible that the number of saloons in the Third ward shall not be increased if we can prevent it, and we implore your honorable body to stand by us in this matter."

Mayor Hauser asked if there was any one present who desired to be heard on behalf of the petition.

Edward Cook of Ellis street was the only one that responded and he spoke against granting the transfer.

The council went into conference over the matter and when the session was resumed the result of the vote was as above stated.

Basket-Ball.

This afternoon the Bloomfield High School boys team will meet the fast Richmond Hill five of Richmond Hill, N. Y., at the Berkeley Court. This will be the first time that these teams have met and the game promises to be a good one. The Bloomfield five have been practising hard all week, and Coach Delano expects his team to do some excellent work. The line-up will be changed a little, because of the illness of Baker, the crack forward. G. Davis or Findar will probably take Baker's place. The latter will be around in good shape in about two weeks. The game will be called promptly at 2:45. The second team will play a preliminary game with the Nutley High School second team. This afternoon the Bloomfield High School girls will play the Westfield High School girls at Westfield.